

National Intelligence and Epidemiology - A New Nexus for the 21st Century

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National intelligence and Public Health requirements changed dramatically in the post 9-11 era with the emergence of the anthrax cases in Florida, New York and Washington, D.C. Intelligence agencies began to monitor public health associated issues in ways previously unavailable. Changes in the relationship of public health and the intelligence community continue to evolve. New methodologies are being created which make surveillance more full spectrum, thereby ensuring better maintenance of national security in all sectors, including public health. Scientists at Auburn University are creating new methods for open source intelligence. A virtual community has been created that can also serve as a nexus for public health and the Intelligence Community (IC). The Public Health Sector portion of the project include five requirements: 1) Assess threat nation science and technology related to biological weapons and dual use technology 2) Monitor public health/animal health issues in global areas of interest. 3) Develop models to better distinguish natural disease outbreaks from bioterrorism events. 4) Develop models for the movement of disease in non-urban setting which affect personnel deployment. 5) Provide geospatial context for all of the above. The methodologies fill IC and public health gaps by creating collections of unbiased open source data points, eliminating institutional bias and providing a check and balance against traditional IC/Public Health analysis models. This in turn provides a context for better decision making, which have traditionally been affected by bureaucratic politics, historical analogies and psychological factors of intelligence analysts and epidemiologists.

Biographies:

Dr. Robert A. Norton is a Professor at Auburn University. A veterinary microbiologist by training, he was educated at Southern Illinois University, where he received his B.S. and M.S. and the University of Arkansas, where he received his Ph.D. Norton served in the U.S. Army Chemical Corps and later with the United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID) at Ft. Detrick, Maryland. Norton is a member of numerous professional organizations and has published over 100 scientific articles, abstracts and book chapters. He is a regular speaker at national and international scientific and law enforcement meetings. He regularly conducts agricultural related intelligence briefings for law enforcement, intelligence and Congressional groups. Norton was the recipient of the 2004 FBI Director's Community Leadership Award for his work in the areas of infrastructure protection and national security related to agriculture.

Kenneth E Nusbaum, DVM, PhD, has been concerned about veterinary medicine and public health policy since he completed his 1993 AVMA/AAAS Congressional Science and Policy Fellowship in the Health Office of the US Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources. He has also worked on food animal biosecurity for the Alabama Department of Public Health and foreign animal disease threats for the Battelle Research Foundation.
